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Re: Appeal Nos. 2003-1072, 2003-1073, 2003-1074, 2003-1666, 2003-1939, 2004-1034, 2004-1272,
2004-1273, 2004-1275, 2004-1406, 2004-1480, 2004-1725, 2004-1773 and
Application No. 09/267,199 (BHAT *et al.*) filed March 12, 1999 (Conf. No. 6701)

Atty. Dkt. Nos.: 16517.323, 16517.326, 16517.324, 16517.128, 16517.277,
16517.314, 16517.032, 16517.285, 16517.276, 16517.272,
16517.281, 16517.231, 16517.142 and 16517.233

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ARNOLD & PORTER LLP

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August 20, 2004

VIA FACSIMILE

Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences
 United States Patent and Trademark Office
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Requests for Suspension of Appeal

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is a Request for Suspension of Appeal for each of the following applications:

1. Appeal No.: Not Yet Assigned/Conf. No. 6701
 Serial No. 09/267,199, filed March 12, 1999
 Applicants: Barkur G. BHAT *et al.*
 Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the Tocopherol Pathway
 Attorney Docket No.: 16517.233
2. Appeal No.: 2003-1072
 Serial No. 09/333,534, filed June 14, 1999
 Applicants: Timothy W. CONNER *et al.*
 Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
 Attorney Docket No.: 16517.323
3. Appeal No.: 2003-1073
 Serial No. 09/540,234, filed April 3, 2000
 Applicants: Timothy W. CONNER *et al.*
 Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
 Attorney Docket No.: 16517.326
4. Appeal No.: 2003-1074
 Serial No. 09/552,086, filed April 19, 2000
 Applicants: Robert E. BUEHLER *et al.*
 Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
 Attorney Docket No.: 16517.324
5. Appeal No.: 2003-1666
 Serial No. 09/521,640, filed March 10, 2000
 Applicants: Joseph R. BYRUM *et al.*
 Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
 Attorney Docket No.: 16517.128

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Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

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6. Appeal No.: 2003-1939
Serial No. 09/333,535, filed June 14, 1999
Applicants: Joseph R. BYRUM *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.277
7. Appeal No.: 2004-1034
Serial No. 09/666,355, filed September 20, 2000
Applicants: Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.314
8. Appeal No.: 2004-1272
Serial No. 09/371,146, filed August 9, 1999
Applicants: Nordine CHEIKH *et al.*
Title: Annotated Plant Genes
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.032
9. Appeal No.: 2004-1273
Serial No. 09/637,086, filed August 11, 2000
Applicants: Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.285
10. Appeal No.: 2004-1275
Serial No. 09/540,235, filed April 3, 2000
Applicants: Dane K. FISHER *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Sequences from Cyanidium Caldarium and Uses Thereof
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.276
11. Appeal No.: 2004-1406
Serial No. 09/553,094, filed April 18, 2000
Applicants: Scott E. ANDERSEN *et al.*
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants
Attorney Docket No.: 16517.272

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Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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12. Appeal No. 2004-1480

Serial No. 09/732,627, filed December 8, 2000

Applicants: Karen L. FINCHER *et al.*

Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants

Attorney Docket No.: 16517.281

13. Appeal No.: 2004-1725

Serial No. 09/233,218, filed January 20, 1999

Applicants: Claire A. CAJACOB *et al.*

Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the Tetrapyrrole

Pathway

Attorney Docket No.: 16517.231

14. Appeal No.: 2004-1773

Serial No. 09/421,106, filed October 15, 1999

Applicants: Joseph R. BYRUM

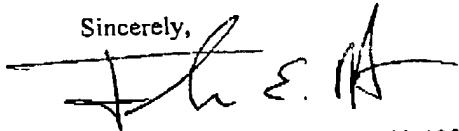
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with Plants

Attorney Docket No.: 16517.142

It is respectfully requested that acknowledgement of receipt of these waivers be sent via return facsimile to the undersigned at 202-942-5999.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of these patent applications, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. Appellants do not believe any fees are due in conjunction with these filings. However, if any fees are required in the present applications, including any fees for extensions of time, then the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Arnold & Porter LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2387, referencing docket number 16517.001.

Sincerely,



David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)
Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)

Enclosures

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

AUG 20 2004

In re application of:	Art Unit:	1637
Claire A. CAJACOB <i>et al.</i>	Examiner:	Young J. Kim
Appln. No.: 09/233,218	Atty. Dkt. No.:	16517,231
Filed: January 20, 1999	Appeal No.:	2004-1725
Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated with the Tetrapyrrole Pathway		

Request for Suspension of Appeal

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Appellant hereby requests that the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("Board") suspend action in the above-captioned appeal. The issues presented in the appeal involve the utility of partial nucleic acid molecules, such as Expressed Sequence Tags (ESTs), under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112 and the sufficiency of the written description of these sequences. An appeal involving the utility of partial nucleic acid molecules is currently pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ("Federal Circuit"). The sufficiency of the written description has been decided by the Board under similar circumstances as the present appeal.¹

On April 28, 2003 Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal in the above-captioned matter. Thereafter, Appellant filed an Appeal Brief with the Patent Office on June 27, 2003 and waived oral hearing on July 22, 2004.

On May 27, 2004, the Real Party in Interest in the above-captioned matter filed an appeal to the Federal Circuit in *In re Fisher* (U.S. Appln No. 09/619,643, B.P.A.I. Appeal

¹ Rejections for the lack of sufficiency of the written description, have repeatedly been reversed by the Board in similar cases. See, Appeal Nos. 2003-1137, 2003-0996, 2003-1504, 2003-1746 and 2002-2046.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Request for Suspension of Appeal is being facsimile transmitted to the attention of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences, via facsimile number (703) 308-6200, and to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office central facsimile number (703) 872-9306.

August 20, 2004

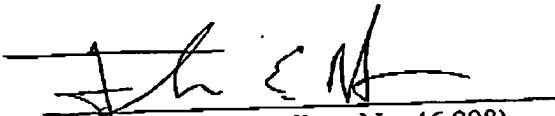
Claire A. CAJACOB *et al.*
Ser. No. 09/233,218
Appeal No. 2004-1725
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No. 2002-2046) presenting the issue of the utility of partial nucleic acid molecules, such as ESTs under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101 and 112.²

The Office has stated that postponing consideration of an appeal until the Board has the benefit of a Federal Circuit decision, which may be determinative of an issue in the appeal, is sound practice. *See e.g.*, M.P.E.P. §1213, 8th Edition, Revision No. 2, at page 1200-31.

For these reasons, Appellant hereby requests that the Board suspend consideration of the present appeal until the Federal Circuit provides guidance on the issue of the utility of partial nucleic acid molecules, such as ESTs. Should the Commissioner require additional information, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas E. Holsten (Reg. No. 46,098)
David R. Marsh (Reg. No. 41,408)

Date: August 20, 2004

Of Counsel

Lawrence M. Lavin, Jr. (Reg. No. 30,768)
Thomas E. Kelley (Reg. No. 29,938)
Monsanto Company

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² The Board has upheld Examiners' utility rejections in similar appeals. *See, e.g.* Appeal Nos. 2003-1137, 2003-0996, 2003-1504, 2003-1746 and 2002-2046.

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